

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

--An image heating apparatus has ~~for heating and image formed on a recording material, includes~~ a flexible rotatable member; a slidable member for sliding contact with an inner surface of the rotatable member; a back-up member for forming a nip with the slidable member with the rotatable member interposed therebetween, wherein ~~the nip is effective to nip and feed the recording material, and the image is heated by heat supplied from the rotatable member; wherein~~ a projection extended along a longitudinal direction of the rotatable member, and provided on such a portion of a sliding surface of the slidable member as is downstream of a center of the sliding surface with respect to a recording material feeding direction in which the recording material is fed, and wherein the projection is effective to provide a maximum pressure in a distribution, with respect to the recording material feeding direction, of pressure applied to the nip.--